

Filed for intro on 05/15/2002

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1065
By Rinks

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Representative Clarence W. (Pete) Phillips on his meritorious service as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this Body should recognize those fellow legislators who have performed their elected duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented devotion and whose efforts to excel have brought substantial benefits to their respective communities and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative Clarence W. (Pete) Phillips's illustrious career in the House of Representatives will come to an end at the adjournment sine die of the 2002 Session of the 102nd General Assembly, as he has announced his retirement from this august Body; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Phillips has for many years been a prominent and highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of the 62nd House District, and he has served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, the good people of the 62nd House District first evinced their great faith in the political and governmental capabilities of Pete Phillips by electing him as their

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Representative to the General Assembly, a position in which he has now performed admirably during a remarkable fifteen consecutive General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, during his three decades in the House of Representatives, Chairman Phillips has been prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes his conscience; and

WHEREAS, Representative Phillips is a dynamic and aggressive participant in the legislative process and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for the outstanding contributions to good government he has made as a member of the Commerce Committee and State and Local Government Committee; and

WHEREAS, a leader among leaders, he serves as Chairman of the powerful House Calendar and Rules Committee and the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Utilities and Banking; and

WHEREAS, a tireless proponent of progress, he has championed his constituents' needs, and his actions have perpetuated the superb quality of life that is enjoyed by the people of his district and indeed, all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of citizenship, Representative Phillips has served as a member of many community, civic, and professional organizations, including the Tennessee Bar Association, the American Legion, and the VFW; and

WHEREAS, a native of Shelbyville, Pete Phillips is the son of the late Lucile Wilkes Phillips and the late Clarence Walter Phillips, Sr., a former Bedford County Judge, State Highway Commissioner, a member of the Cabinets of Governor Prentice Cooper and Governor Jim McCord, and Director of the Rights of Way Division for the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Phillips attended Shelbyville Central High School; he graduated from Vanderbilt University, where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics, and he then earned a J.D. degree from that prestigious institution's law school; and

WHEREAS, this patriotic American nobly interrupted his studies to defend his country during World War II; he served in the United States Army Air Corps from 1943-1945 in the South Pacific and participated in the invasion of Okinawa; when our nation most needed gallant individuals to protect our freedom and our way of life, Pete Phillips answered the call of duty and thus holds an exalted position among the many brave men and women who have defended our nation against foreign aggression throughout American history; and

WHEREAS, after returning home to his beloved Bedford County, Pete Phillips earned an unsurpassed reputation for civic concern and inspired leadership, while gaining the respect and admiration of his peers and clients; and

WHEREAS, over the years, he has provided honorable and astute service to his fellow citizens as an Assistant Attorney General and General Sessions Judge; and

WHEREAS, during his accomplished business career, he utilized his unsurpassed leadership abilities to organize several commercial banks throughout the South; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Chairman Phillips is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Faith Hall Phillips of Paris, Kentucky, a Vanderbilt graduate, Phi Beta Kappa, and former President of Delta Delta Delta; together, they are the proud parents of two sons, Stephen and Will; and

WHEREAS, both sons are graduates of Harvard University, Will with a J.D. and Stephen with a Ph.D., and have enjoyed tremendously successful careers; Will Phillips is a practicing attorney in New York City, and Stephen is a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Pete Phillips is also the loving and devoted grandfather of two grandsons, Matthew and Nathaniel; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, he is an active member of the First Christian Church in Shelbyville; and

WHEREAS, Representative Phillips's announcement of his retirement from the General Assembly has greatly disappointed and disconcerted his fellow lawmakers, Democrats and

Republicans alike, and his considerable talents and energies will be sorely missed by the good people of House District 62; and

WHEREAS, this Body finds it appropriate to bid farewell to our friend and colleague, Representative Pete Phillips; now, therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Chairman Clarence W. (Pete) Phillips on 30 years of meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of Bedford and Lincoln Counties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to him our best wishes for much success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Representative Phillips as a token of our esteem.